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Diagenetic modulation of the magnetic properties in sediments from the Northern Indian Ocean

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[1] Large changes in magnetic mineral concentration dependent parameters by more than 1 order of magnitude occur over 50–150 cm intervals in two marine sediment cores from the oxygen minimum zone in the Gulf of Aden. High-resolution sedimentological and chemical analyses indicate that these intervals are not associated with turbiditic events or sediment reworking, they do not result from changes in carbonate dilution or differences in sediment properties, and they do not correspond to volcanic layers. Magnetic mineralogical analyses reveal a change in magnetic mineral concentration from a magnetite-goethite assemblage to pure magnetite within the peak. The peaks almost disappear when the abundance of magnetic minerals is calculated after correcting for the magnetic moments of each magnetic mineral. Therefore, under the assumption that the variability of the magnetic parameters results from postdepositional mineralogical transformations, a relatively constant amount of magnetite was present at the surface of the sediment. Changes in redox conditions and nonsteady state diagenesis transformations have effectively been observed along both cores. Large values of total organic carbon coincide with poor preservation of biogenic and detrital magnetite, which reflects reductive dissolution of the finer magnetite grains. At the same levels, Fe^{2+} release from reductively dissolved magnetite favored precipitation of goethite. The susceptibility peaks coincide with episodes of magnetite preservation caused by reduced surface

productivity and/or enhanced bottom-water ventilation accompanying northward extension of Glacial Antarctic Intermediate Water into the Indian Ocean.

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1. Introduction

[2] The evolution of magnetic susceptibility within a sediment column is frequently considered as a proxy for climatic changes [see, e.g., Robinson, 1986; Bloemendal *et al.*, 1988, 1992; deMenocal *et al.*, 1991; Meynadier *et al.*, 1995; Lean and McCave, 1998; Haag, 2000]. The climatic imprint on susceptibility could result from dilution of the magnetic signal by nonmagnetic constituents. For example, an inverse relationship between magnetic mineral concentration and carbonate content is frequently observed in marine sedimentary records which can be indicative of climatic control through dilution of the magnetic signal within the carbonate matrix [Thompson and Oldfield, 1986; Robinson, 1986; Bloemendal *et al.*, 1988, 1992; Meynadier *et al.*, 1995; Lean and McCave, 1998; Haag, 2000]. However, in many cases, susceptibility variations remain unchanged after correcting for carbonate dilution. Thus, magnetic susceptibility carries an intrinsic signal, which is likely to differ between sites and could be caused by changes in concentration, grain size, and magnetic mineralogy, which is dependent on the nature of the magnetic particles.

[3] The present paper focuses on the study of sediment cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 from the Northern Indian Ocean (Gulf of Aden), which are both characterized by abrupt and high-amplitude magnetic susceptibility peaks during glacial periods (subsequently referred to as the M1–M3 peaks). Such high-amplitude peaks (up to a factor of 20 in amplitude) are puzzling because susceptibility changes in marine sediments rarely exceed a factor of 3 or 4 in amplitude (except in

the presence of significant volcanic ash layers). Even the amplitude of susceptibility variations associated with Northern Atlantic Heinrich layers, which reflect severe sedimentary changes resulting from abrupt paleoclimatic events, rarely reach this level [Thouveny *et al.*, 2000; Stanford *et al.*, 2011].

[4] We performed high-resolution studies of magnetic and geochemical analyses of both cores in order to determine which factors were responsible for generating the M peaks in the Gulf of Aden and how they were related to paleoenvironmental conditions. The present study is also aimed at discussing various concepts concerning the origin of magnetic susceptibility variations in sediments.

2. Hydrographic/Climatic Settings and Sedimentary Material

[5] Sedimentation in the Gulf of Aden is characterized by eolian transport of dust particles [Sirocko *et al.*, 1993; Leuschner and Sirocko, 2000; Stein *et al.*, 2007], and by a strong monsoon imprint on marine pelagic production through seasonal modulation of the Northern Indian Ocean upwelling systems [Sirocko *et al.*, 1993]. The Gulf of Aden is also located near the Afar depression, in which extensive volcanic activity has occurred. In order to study late Quaternary sedimentation in this area, cores MD92–1002 (12°01.32'N, 44°12.02'E, core length: 9.42 m; 1327 m water depth) and MD92–1003 (11°49.50'N, 43°46.60'E, core length: 12.82 m, 485 m water depth) were collected in 1992 by the R/V *Marion-Dufresne* during the MD73 REDSED cruise. They are

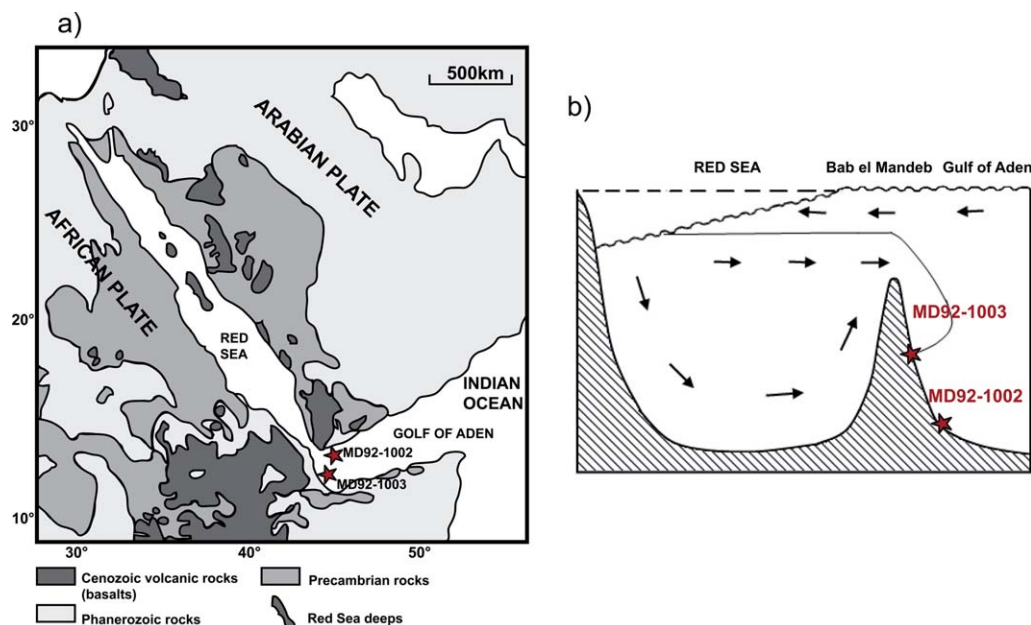


Figure 1. Location map and bathymetric profile modified after *Stein et al.* [2007] with the position of the two studied cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 in the Gulf of Aden (Northern Indian Ocean).

located on the eastern and western sides of the Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb, respectively (Figure 1), and are bathed by bottom waters with low oxygen content, which result from the strong export productivity in the Arabian Sea and its insufficient ventilation [*van Weering et al.*, 1997].

[6] The lithology of both cores is homogeneous and is dominated by green calcareous clay with pyrite and shell fragments (pteropods, lamelli-branches). The low-field magnetic susceptibility (k) was measured every 2 cm above the sediment surface with a Bartington susceptibility meter coupled to a MS2E sensor. Despite the apparent

homogeneity of the sediment, the down-core k profile for MD92–1002 is characterized by a large peak (subsequently referred to as M1), between 700 and 850 cm, with an amplitude that varies by more than a factor of 20 compared to the rest of the core (Figure 2a). Smear slide examinations reveal the presence of a few glass shards, disseminated over a ~ 15 cm interval in the lower part of the 150 cm thick, M1 susceptibility peak. Similarly, susceptibility measurements performed on core MD92–1003 (Figure 2b) indicate the presence of two high-amplitude peaks (referred to as M2 and M3) between 251–291 cm and 789–817 cm, respectively, where k

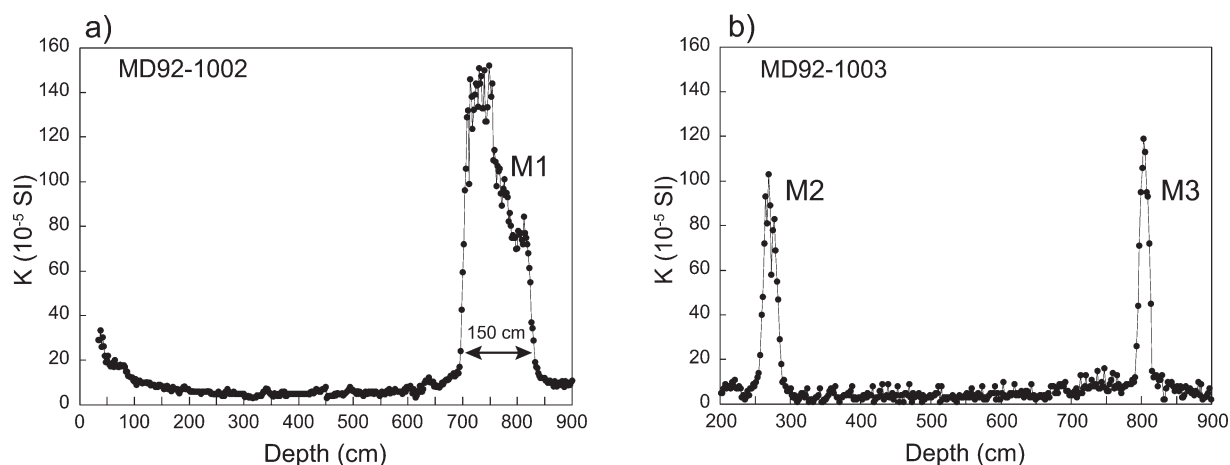


Figure 2. Down-core profiles of magnetic susceptibility for (a) core MD92–1002 and (b) core MD92–1003 as a function of depth. The M1–M3 labels indicate the susceptibility peaks.

Table 1. AMS ^{14}C Dates of Core MD92–1002 From the Northern Indian Ocean

Sample Code	Sampling Depth (cm)	Radiocarbon Laboratory	Sample Reference	AMS ^{14}C Age (^{14}C yr BP)	Calibrated Age (Cal yr BP)
MD92–1002/I-5 cm	5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 8283	820 ± 30	304 ± 160
MD92–1002/I-39.5 cm ^a	39.5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 22731	1045 ± 40	498 ± 168
MD92–1002/II-3 cm	152	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 8284	3015 ± 30	2593 ± 160
MD92–1002/II-72.5 cm	221.5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 8285	4235 ± 30	4111 ± 160
MD92–1002/III-7.5 cm	306.5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 8286	6265 ± 35	6531 ± 164
MD92–1002/III-108.5 cm	407.5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 8287	9475 ± 40	$10,145 \pm 168$
MD92–1002/IV-57.75 cm	507.5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 24462	$10,450 \pm 40$	$11,297 \pm 168$
MD92–1002/V-22.75 cm	622.75	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 24463	$11,760 \pm 45$	$13,082 \pm 173$
MD92–1002/V-77.5 cm ^a	677.5	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 22732	$13,000 \pm 50$	$14,525 \pm 179$
MD92–1002/VI-84 cm ^a	834	Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14 UMS 2572	SacA 22733	$14,910 \pm 60$	$17,439 \pm 191$

^aAMS ^{14}C on mixing *G. ruber* white and *G. sacculifer*, for other samples only on *G. ruber* white. Calibrated ages are indicated with 2 sigma error.

increases by a factor of 20. The oldest M3 peak has values as large as 119×10^{-5} SI, while the younger one (M2) culminates at 100×10^{-5} SI.

[7] There is no visible sharp boundary at the bottom of these high-amplitude susceptibility peaks, which could suggest turbiditic events or sediment reworking. The rest of the sediment is characterized by low susceptibility without significant variations. In order to conduct detailed studies of both cores and to understand the nature of these high-amplitude susceptibility peaks, discrete samples were taken at an average spatial resolution of ~ 5 cm for stable isotopic stratigraphy, sedimentological, and geochemical analyses. For magnetic property analyses, sediment from core MD92–1002 was sampled using U-channels [Nagy and Valet, 1993; Weeks et al., 1993] within the 1.5 m long working halves, while plastic cubes were taken from core MD92–1003 (no U-channel). The upper 2 m of core MD92–1003 were affected by coring disturbances and therefore, are not considered in this study.

3. Stratigraphy and Age Models

[8] Oxygen and carbon isotopic records ($\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, expressed in ‰ versus Vienna Pee Dee belemnite) from surface-dwelling planktonic foraminifera *Globigerinoides ruber* (picked in the narrow 250–315 μm size fraction) were obtained from 154 samples from core MD92–1002 and 149 samples for core MD92–1003, with an average spatial resolution of 5 cm. The mean external

reproducibility (1σ) is $\pm 0.05\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\pm 0.03\text{‰}$ for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$.

[9] The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ stratigraphy reveals that core MD92–1002 contains an expanded Holocene section (~ 400 cm) that reaches the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM). The precise age model of MD92–1002 is based on 10 accelerator mass spectrometry ^{14}C dates (Table 1) obtained on shells from two shallow-dwelling planktonic foraminifera species *G. ruber* and *Globigerinoides sacculifer* (measurements were performed at the Laboratoire de Mesures Carbone 14, LMC14, Saclay, France). The ^{14}C dates were converted to calendar ages using the CALIB6.0 software [Stuiver and Reimer, 1993] and the 2009 marine calibration curve [Reimer et al., 2009]. We assumed a global surface reservoir age of 400 years and a regional correction $\Delta r = 163 \pm 74$ years [Southon et al., 2002]. The average 5 cm sampling resolution translates into an average temporal resolution of ~ 120 years. The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record for core MD92–1002 is plotted versus age in Figure 3a, while an age versus depth plot is shown in Figure 3c. As shown in Figures 3a and 3c, there is no evidence of hiatuses, nor is there any visible disturbance of the isotopic stratigraphy. Core MD92–1002 seems to contain a continuous and undisturbed sequence from the LGM (~ 20 ka BP) to the late Holocene. The mean sedimentation rate is ~ 52 cm/ka, with the highest rate (90 cm/ka) observed during the deglaciation, at the beginning of the Younger Dryas interval. Within this age model, the susceptibility event M1 spanning the depth

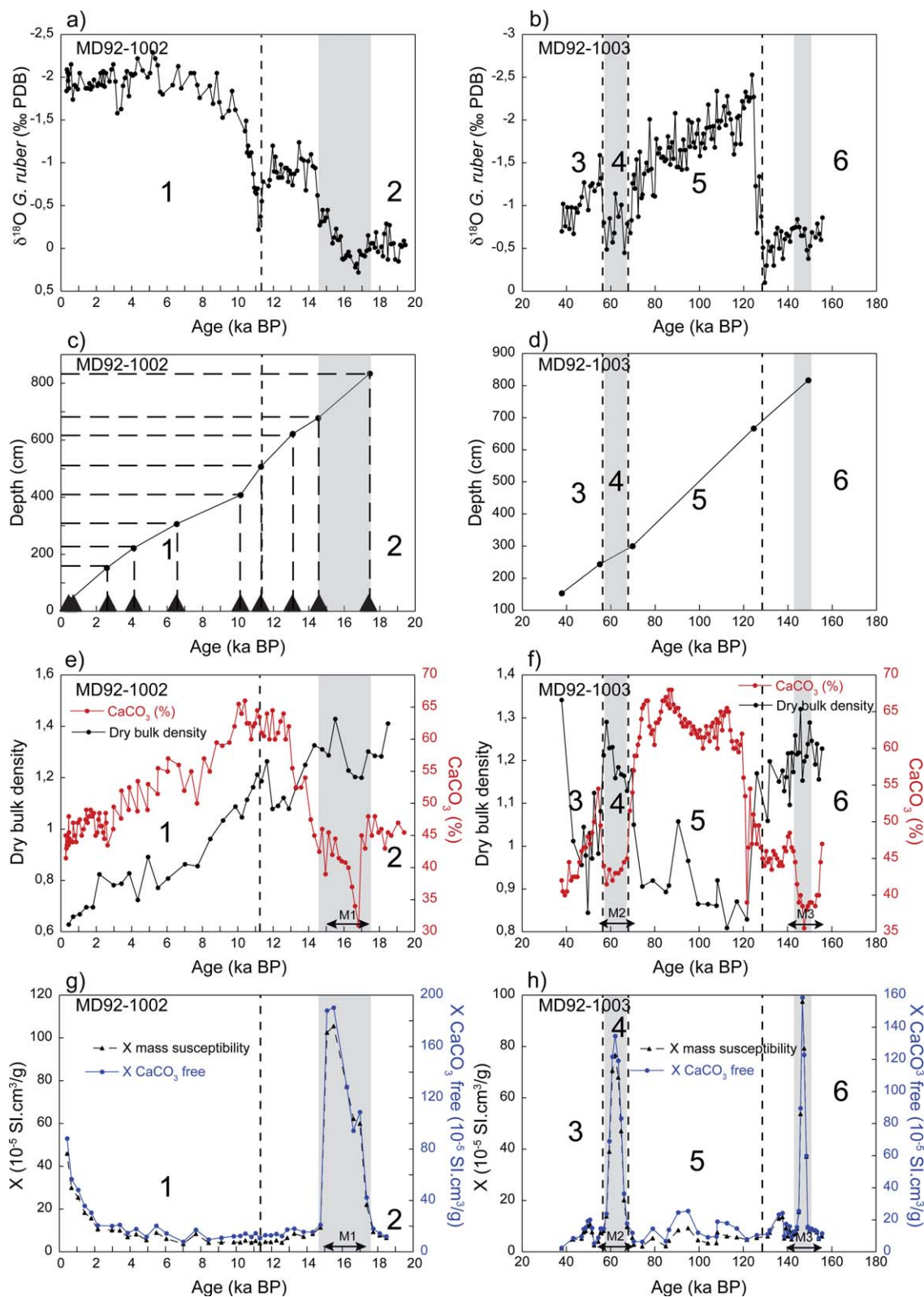


Figure 3. Oxygen isotope stratigraphy and depth-age profiles for cores (a and c) MD92-1002 and (b and d) MD92-1003 from the Gulf of Aden, Northern Indian Ocean. Numbers refer to the isotope stages of *Emiliani* [1955] and triangles to the AMS ^{14}C dates. (e and f) Carbonate content and dry bulk density as a function of age for cores MD92-1002 and MD92-1003, respectively. (g and h) Magnetic susceptibility after correcting for density variations and carbonate dilution.

interval 700–850 cm is dated from ~15 to ~17.5 Cal ka BP.

[10] The $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record for core MD92–1003 is plotted versus age in Figure 3b. The age model for core MD92–1003 is based on visual correlation of large amplitude $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ shifts (e.g., transitions of marine isotope stage (MIS) 6 to MIS 5, and MIS 5/MIS 4) to their counterparts in the astronomically tuned, low-latitude stack of *Bassinot et al.* [1994] using the Analyseries 2.0.4.2 software [Paillard et al., 1996]. Ages were linearly interpolated between the selected tie points, assuming constant sedimentation rates within each successive interval (Figure 3d). Core MD92–1003 goes back to the MIS 6 (160 ka), with an average time resolution of ~1 ka. It has a disturbed upper section, which encompass the LGM and Holocene. This low-resolution age model indicates that the M2 and M3 peaks located at 269 and 802 cm have ages of ~60 and ~150 ka BP, respectively.

4. Paleomagnetic Directions

[11] The natural remanent magnetization (NRM) of U-channel samples from core MD92–1002 was measured at 2 cm intervals with a 2G Enterprises pass-through superconducting rock magnetometer in the shielded room of Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP) using the protocol described by *Nagy and Valet* [1993]. Stepwise demagnetization was performed every 5 mT from 5 to 30 mT and then every 10 up to 60 mT. No directional measurement was performed for core MD92–1003. Typical demagnetization diagrams obtained at specific levels from core MD92–1002 are shown in Figure S1, supporting material.¹ In many cases, a small viscous overprint was removed after 25 or 30 mT, while complete demagnetization was usually attained between 50 and 60 mT. The characteristic directions were isolated using the Paleomac 6.2 software [Cogné, 2003] by fitting straight lines through the data and through the origin of the demagnetization diagrams.

[12] The successive declinations and inclinations for core MD92–1002 are plotted as a function of age in Figure S2 and S3, supporting material. Core MD92–1002 was twisted during coring and the declination was corrected using a simple linear regression. In the absence of orientation within the horizontal plane, the mean declination value for

the entire core was set to the zero. This assumption is justified by the fact that the sediment covers a time period exceeding beyond 10 ka BP, and therefore, the time-averaged nondipole field should be negligible. The upper part of the core has high water contents and was disturbed by coring. Paleomagnetic directions in the studied intervals are variable, particularly in inclination. The mean inclination of 25.5° is 2.5° steeper than that of the geocentric axial dipole at the site latitude.

[13] The amplitude and timing of declination and inclination changes in core MD92–1002 within the M1 peak indicate that this interval is not linked to any perturbation of the sediment. The NRM data confirm, therefore, the conclusions regarding the quality of core MD92–1002, which were drawn from visual inspection, from the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ record and from the AMS ^{14}C age model. In the absence of a paleomagnetic directional record, it is more difficult to draw similar conclusions for core MD92–1003, but the similar magnetic properties between the two cores and the lack of apparent disturbance in the $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ curve over the MIS 3–MIS 6 stratigraphic interval suggest that core MD92–1003 also provides a good quality, upper Quaternary record.

5. Magnetic Mineral Concentration, Density, and Carbonate Content

[14] Our volume magnetic susceptibility measurements will depend to some extent on the porosity of the sedimentary material. In order to explore the role of index property changes on the susceptibility peaks, measurements of wet and dry bulk densities (mainly controlled by porosity in marine sediments) were made for 107 samples (41 from core MD92–1002 and 66 from core MD92–1003). Results are shown in Figures 3e and 3f. Susceptibility values associated with density measurements at the same stratigraphic levels were converted to equivalent values of specific magnetic susceptibility to compensate for density variations. After correction, the susceptibility peaks remained almost unchanged in both records (Figures 3g and 3h).

[15] Magnetic susceptibility and other rock magnetic parameters can be highly dependent upon changes in dilution by the carbonate matrix, which should be corrected. The carbonate content (in wt%) of 116 samples from core MD92–1002 and 152 samples from core MD92–1003 was therefore determined at the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris) by measuring the CO_2 released by reacting

¹Additional supporting information may be found in the online version of this article.

100 mg of finely ground, bulk sediment powder with 0.4 cm³ of 8 N HCl in a carbonate bomb (uncertainty ~1%). The total CaCO₃ content varies from 30 to 65% in core MD92–1002 and from 35 to 70% in core MD92–1003 (Figures 3e and 3f). Carbonate content is lower during glacial periods with a particularly clear minimum at ~17 Cal ka BP in core MD92–1002. It is usual to account for the influence of carbonate content on magnetic concentration by the simple linear correction $C_{\text{mag,nc}} (\%) = C_{\text{mag}} / (1 - \text{CaCO}_3)$, where C_{mag} is the magnetic concentration and $C_{\text{mag,nc}}$ is the magnetic mineral concentration corrected for the dilution effect (i.e., noncarbonated). After applying this technique to the specific magnetic susceptibility records from cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003, we found the same pattern of variations before and after correction (Figures 3g and 3h). This was expected given the relatively small amplitude of CaCO₃ changes compared to those of the susceptibility records. We infer, therefore, that the M peaks do not result from carbonate dilution.

[16] The NRM intensity was scrutinized in order to investigate variations in magnetic particles concentration and/or changes in magnetic mineralogy. The variations of NRM at 20 mT as a function of age for core MD92–1002 (Figure S4, supporting material) are characterized by a large amplitude peak between ~15 and 17.5 Cal ka BP, which corresponds to the M1 susceptibility peak. We have investigated whether the magnetization of smaller magnetic particles give rise to the same kind of variations. Anhysteretic remanent magnetization (ARM) was imparted in a 30 μ T steady field in the presence of a 100 mT peak alternating field at 2 cm stratigraphic intervals in core MD92–1002 and was subsequently demagnetized at 20 mT (ARM_{20 mT}) for direct comparison with the NRM_{20 mT}. The M1 peak is also present in the ARM_{20 mT} record (Figure S5, supporting material) with similar amplitude as the other rock magnetic parameters.

[17] The down-core relative variations in magnetic grain sizes could be approximated by the ARM/ K ratio provided that the magnetic mineralogy is entirely dominated by magnetite. We will see below that this is not the case and therefore that such estimates would be meaningless.

[18] In summary, cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 are characterized by large amplitude and abrupt susceptibility peaks (M1–M3), in which k increases by a factor of 20 with respect to the average background signal. They occur at 15–17 Cal ka BP in core MD92–1002 (M1) and at 60 ka BP

and 150 ka BP (M2 and M3) in core MD92–1003. These peaks are neither associated with major sediment reworkings nor with turbidite events. They do not correspond to changes in density/porosity of the sediments, nor do they result from carbonate dilution. They are present in all magnetic parameters (NRM, k , ARM) and are caused, therefore, by changes in the magnetic material concentration or reflect an evolution in magnetic mineralogy. Before exploring these possibilities we investigate the possible input of volcanic material.

6. Trace Elements: Origin and Evolution of Sedimentary Material

[19] Despite the fact that no ash layer was macroscopically observed in cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003, we could not totally reject the possibility that the large amplitude susceptibility peaks could be related to enhanced supply of volcanic material from the Afar area (considering that a few disseminated glass shards were detected by smear slide examination in the lower part of the M1 interval). We used neutron activation to analyze changes in the elemental composition of the bulk sediment. The measurements were performed at the Pierre Sue Laboratory (CEA, Saclay) on 106 samples from core MD92–1002 and 101 samples from core MD92–1003, most of which were taken at a high sampling resolution (down to 1 cm) across the M susceptibility peaks. Following the technique described in *Joron et al.* [1997], 150 mg aliquots of finely powdered sediment were weighed and wrapped in aluminum foil. The samples were then irradiated under an epithermal neutron flux in the core of the Osiris reactor. We only discuss here the most pertinent results derived from these experiments.

[20] A significant thorium anomaly in core MD92–1002 coincides with the 15 cm thick glass layer identified by smear slide analysis, while this element remains stable in core MD92–1003 (Figures 4a and 4b). The ratio of elements with similar lithophile characters can be used to characterize the source of the detrital fraction. The evolution of the thorium to tantalum (Th/Ta) ratio versus the tantalum to hafnium (Ta/Hf) ratio indicates the presence of two distinct sources in core MD92–1002 (Figure 4e). The first noticeable chemical signature corresponds to the volcanic signature of the short volcanic event at ~17 Cal ka BP, while the second one is due to bulk sediment composition. By contrast, Th/Ta versus Ta/Hf results indicate a single set of chemical composition along

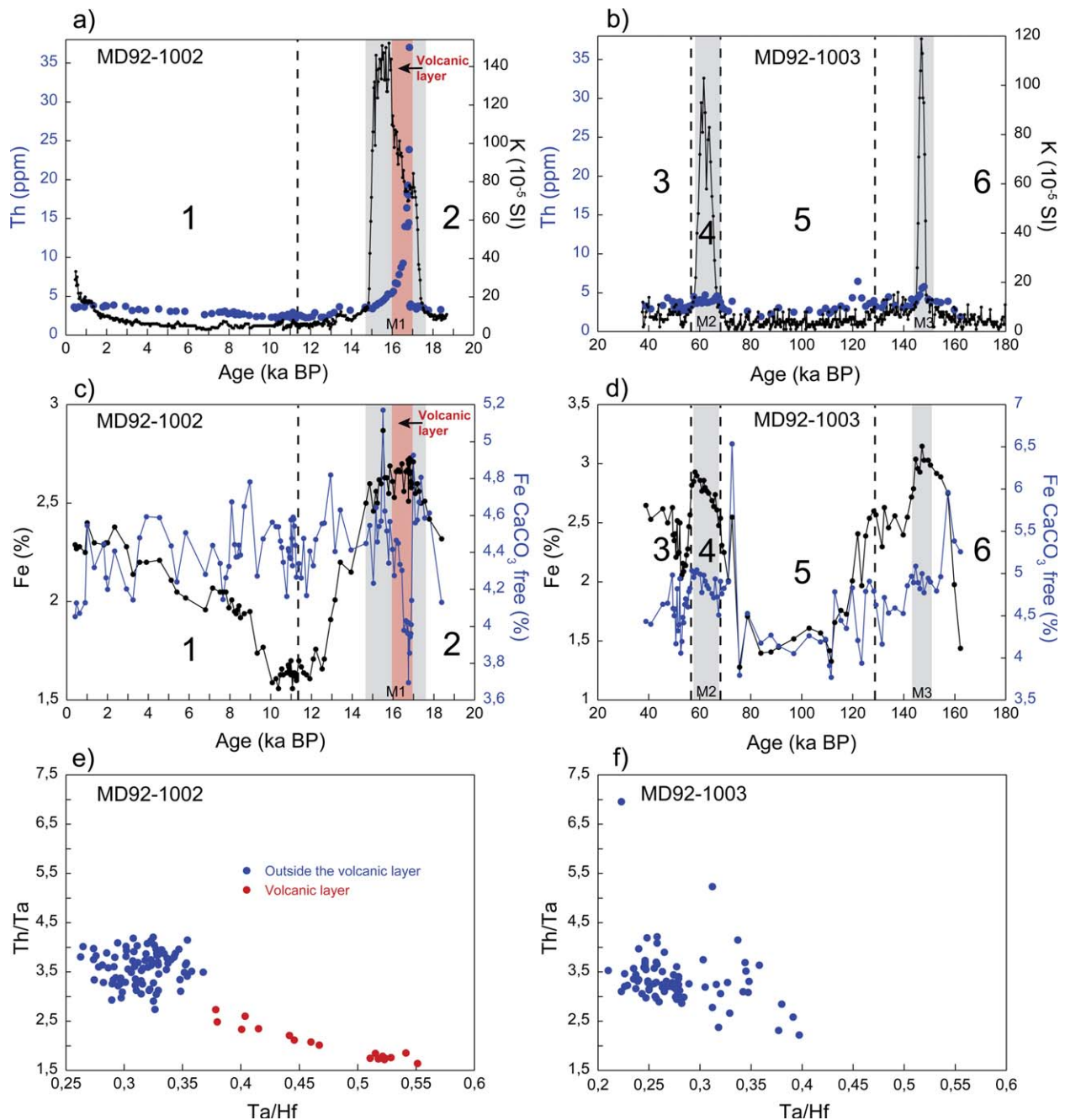


Figure 4. (a and b) Down-core variations of thorium concentration in cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003. A thin volcanic ash layer is clearly visible in core MD92–1002 (red). (c and d) Iron content (black curve) and carbonate-free iron (blue curve). (e and f) The Th/Ta against Ta/Hf plot does not indicate any change in the sediment source. The ash layer from core MD92–1002 has a distinct signature (red dots).

core MD92–1003, which points to the absence of significant additional or exotic sediment sources in this case (Figure 4f). The values for core MD92–1003 fall within the same range as for the bulk sediment from core MD92–1002.

[21] The M1 peak in magnetic mineral concentration is about 150 cm thick (extending from 700 to

850 cm); it is much thicker, therefore, than the Th anomaly peak (peak volcanic material: 790–802 cm; mixing zone: 745–785 cm). This suggests that the entire M1 peak, whose age is well constrained between 15 and 17.5 Cal ka BP, does not correspond to a massive volcanic episode. The Th profile indicates that a short volcanic event coincidentally occurred at the onset of M1 but is not

responsible for the overall susceptibility peak. The conclusion that the three major susceptibility peaks are not related to volcanic activity is reinforced by the absence of a volcanic signature in the M2 and M3 peaks from core MD92–1003.

[22] Iron is a key element in relation to magnetic properties. The highest values of Fe obtained by neutron activation occur within the 15–18 Cal ka BP interval in core MD92–1002 (Figure 4c), whereas the lowest values occur between 10 and 13 Cal ka BP. The iron content of core MD92–1003 reaches maxima during MIS 4 and 6 (around 60 and 150 ka BP), but there is no evidence for a sharp and large amplitude increase during the M peaks (Figure 4d). In both cores, changes in iron content appear to be somewhat opposite to those of the carbonate content. As for the susceptibility, we checked, therefore, whether the iron content was modulated by carbonate dilution. Contrary to observations for magnetic susceptibility, the amplitude of Fe variations considerably decreased in both cores after correction for CaCO₃ content, except at ~17 Cal ka BP in core MD92–1002, which corresponds to the thin glass layer. CaCO₃ correction also reveals an oscillating trend between 2 and 2.5% in core MD92–1002 (Figure 4c), which is not so clear in core MD92–1003 likely because of its lower resolution (Figure 4d). These results point out the difference in behavior between the total Fe content and the concentration of magnetic iron oxides (as indicated by *k*, NRM, and ARM). Down-core Fe variations are mainly controlled by changes in carbonate content (dilution effect) and appear to be decoupled from variations in magnetic parameters. This suggests that Fe content is controlled by clay minerals, while the magnetic iron oxides control the large amplitude changes in magnetic parameters.

7. Magnetic Mineralogy Variations

[23] Saturation magnetization can differ by a factor of 200 between magnetic minerals (e.g., magnetite and hematite) [O'Reilly, 1984]. Consequently, relative changes in magnetic mineralogy can induce large variations in rock magnetic parameters. Several indicators are commonly used to document the down-core evolution of magnetic minerals. A first useful approach is to rely on the ratio between low- and high-coercivity minerals, which is efficiently described by the *S* ratio [Bloemendal *et al.*, 1992]. We estimated the *S* ratio for 84 discrete samples from core MD92–1002 and 169 samples from core MD92–1003. The samples were given an

isothermal remanent magnetization (IRM) in a direct field of 1 T before being measured, subsequently remagnetized in a reverse field of 0.3 T and then remeasured. The *S* ratio was calculated according to the formula of Bloemendal *et al.* [1992].

[24] The *S* ratio (Figures 5a and 5b) values within the M peaks are close to 1 and are associated with a low-coercivity mineral, most likely magnetite. The other levels have lower values (circa 0.8), which are indicative of a large amount of high-coercivity minerals (e.g., goethite and hematite), which is supported by IRM acquisition analysis imparted from 0.05 to 1.2 T in an electromagnet. The experiment was conducted on 12 discrete samples for core MD92–1002 and 8 samples for core MD92–1003 located within and outside the magnetic peaks. The IRM acquisition curves are consistent with *S* ratio value (Figure 5d) and point to the existence of two mineral families in samples from outside the peaks, while a single, low-coercivity material dominates within the peaks.

[25] The (NRM₂₀ – NRM₆₀)/NRM₂₀ ratio (hereafter referred as the *R* ratio) is another pertinent indicator of the coercivity of remanence since it reveals the amount of magnetization remaining after a specific demagnetization step (here we selected 60 mT, which is higher than the coercivity of remanence for most magnetite grains). Thus, down-core changes of *R* should be in phase with the *S* ratio because a magnetically soft component is characterized by a large *S* ratio, while a large *R* is caused by low resistance to alternating field demagnetization and removal of a large part of the magnetization. All analyses indicate that this is the case (Figures 5c and 5d), and that changes in remanence intensity are linked, therefore, to changes in magnetic mineralogy. The presence of magnetite is detected rapidly from its Curie temperature (Figures 5e and 5f).

[26] Temperature dependence of magnetic susceptibility curves, $k=f(T)$, was measured by heating small powdered sediment samples using a Kappa-bridge system (KLY2-CS2) between 50 and 700°C. All 13 analyzed samples (7 for core MD92–1002 and 6 for core MD92–1003) produced irreversible heating and cooling curves. A dominant feature is the absence of hematite in the samples taken just below the M1 peak in core MD92–1002 (850 cm; 17.7 Cal ka BP; Figure 5e) and outside the M2 peak in core MD92–1003 (226 cm; Cal 51.5 ka BP; Figure 5f). The absence of magnetization loss between 280°C and 400°C also indicates the absence of greigite [Roberts, 1995].

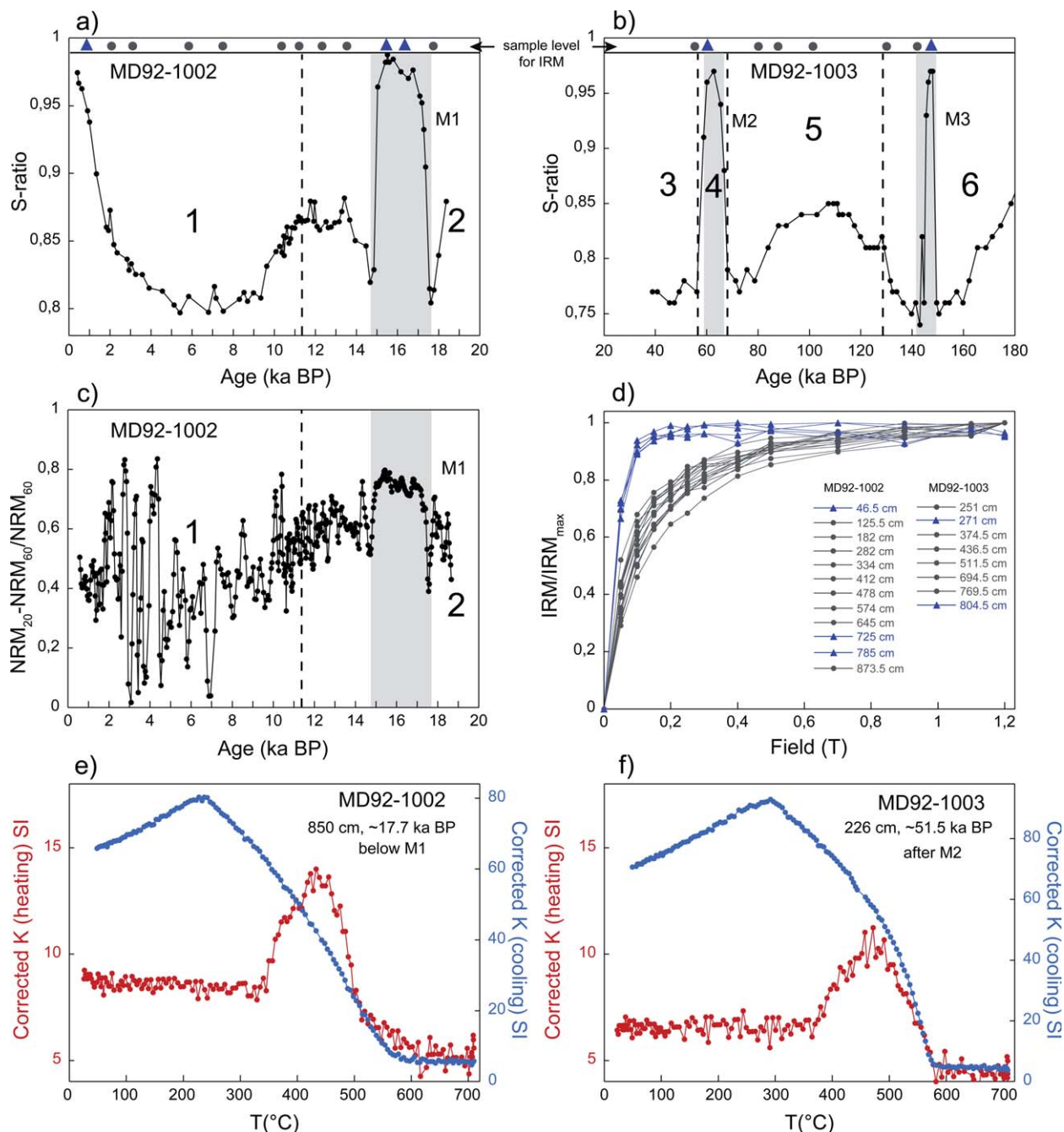


Figure 5. (a and b) S ratio for cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003. The high values correspond to the M1–M3 episodes. (c) R ratio ($(NRM_{20\text{ mT}} - NRM_{60\text{ mT}})/NRM_{60\text{ mT}}$). (d) IRM acquisition curves for cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003. Rapid saturation is obtained for samples within the peaks (blue curves). (e and f) Thermomagnetic curves of two samples from cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 outside the M1 and M2 susceptibility peaks.

Instead, there is a strong increase during heating within the 350–450°C interval, which is most likely caused by the oxidation of pyrite into magnetite [Passier *et al.*, 2001]. Scanning electron microscope (SEM) observations coupled with EDS (energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy) analyses indicate that the amount of pyrite is lower

within the peak than outside. The cooling curves show K increasing below 580°C and thus appear to be entirely dominated by magnetite. In a few samples (e.g., in Figure 5e) magnetite is likely associated with a very little amount of titanium. A significant part of magnetite results also from mineralogical alteration during heating.

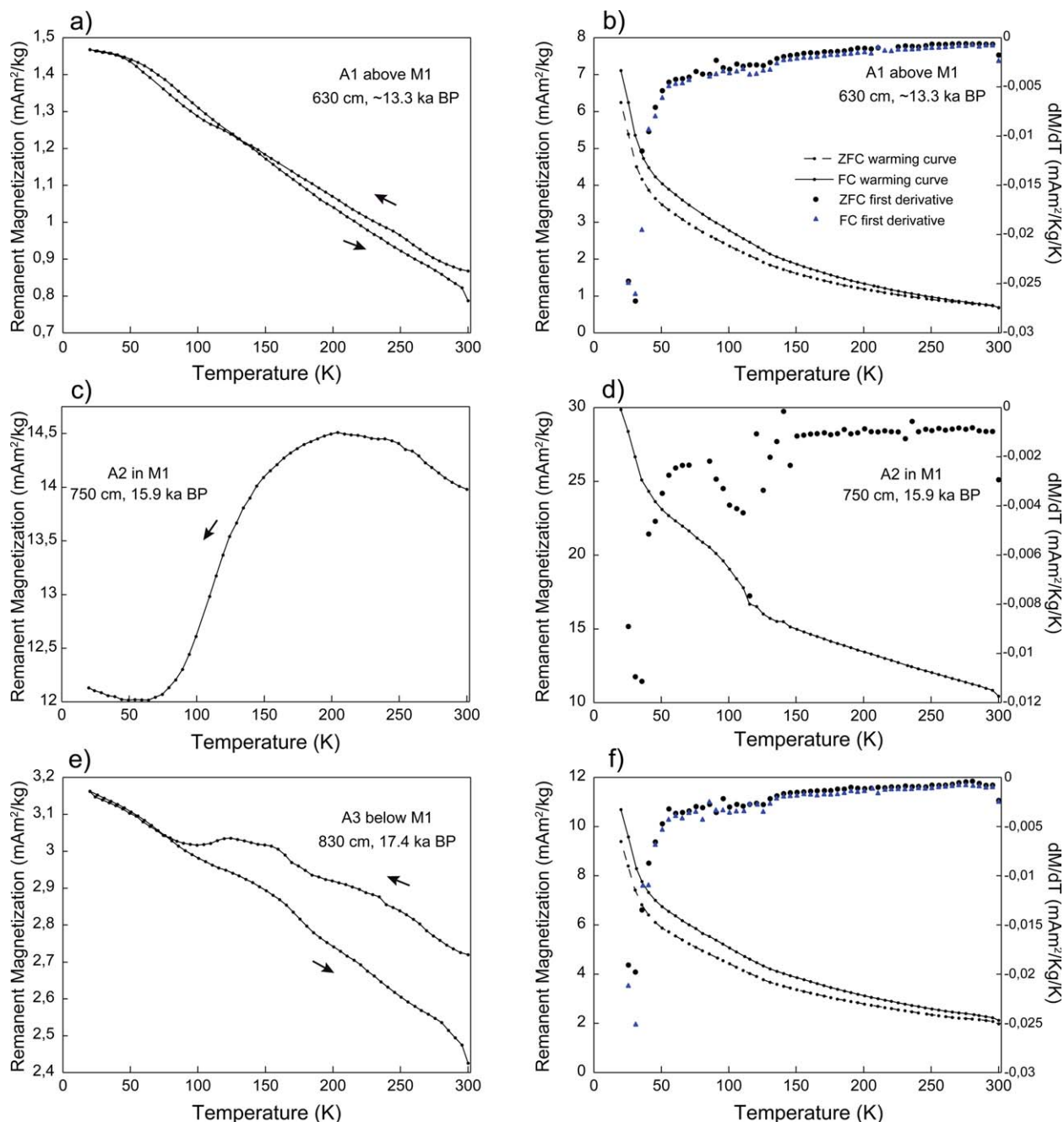


Figure 6. (a, c, and e) RT-SIRM curves of samples from core MD92–1002 measured above M1 (A1), within M1 (A2) and just below M1 (A3). (b, d, and f) ZFC and FC magnetization curves at the same levels. A2 was only subjected to cooling experiments. The first derivatives are shown by filled symbols for ZFC and open symbols for FC. All samples are weight-normalized.

[27] The presence of hematite can be indicated by the T ratio [Meynadier *et al.*, 1992, 1995], which is the remaining percentage of IRM after heating to 600°C and calculated as $(IRM - IRM_{600^\circ C}) / IRM_{600^\circ C}$. We found no significant magnetization beyond 600°C, which confirms that the high-coercivity mineral is likely not hematite. It could be argued that hematite disappeared due to

mineralogical transformations of the sediment while heating up to 600°C. However, heating was performed in air so that most magnetic materials should have oxidized. Therefore, the zero magnetization above 580–600°C confirms the absence of hematite. In summary, the M peaks appear to be dominated by magnetite, while the other intervals incorporate a high-coercivity mineral.

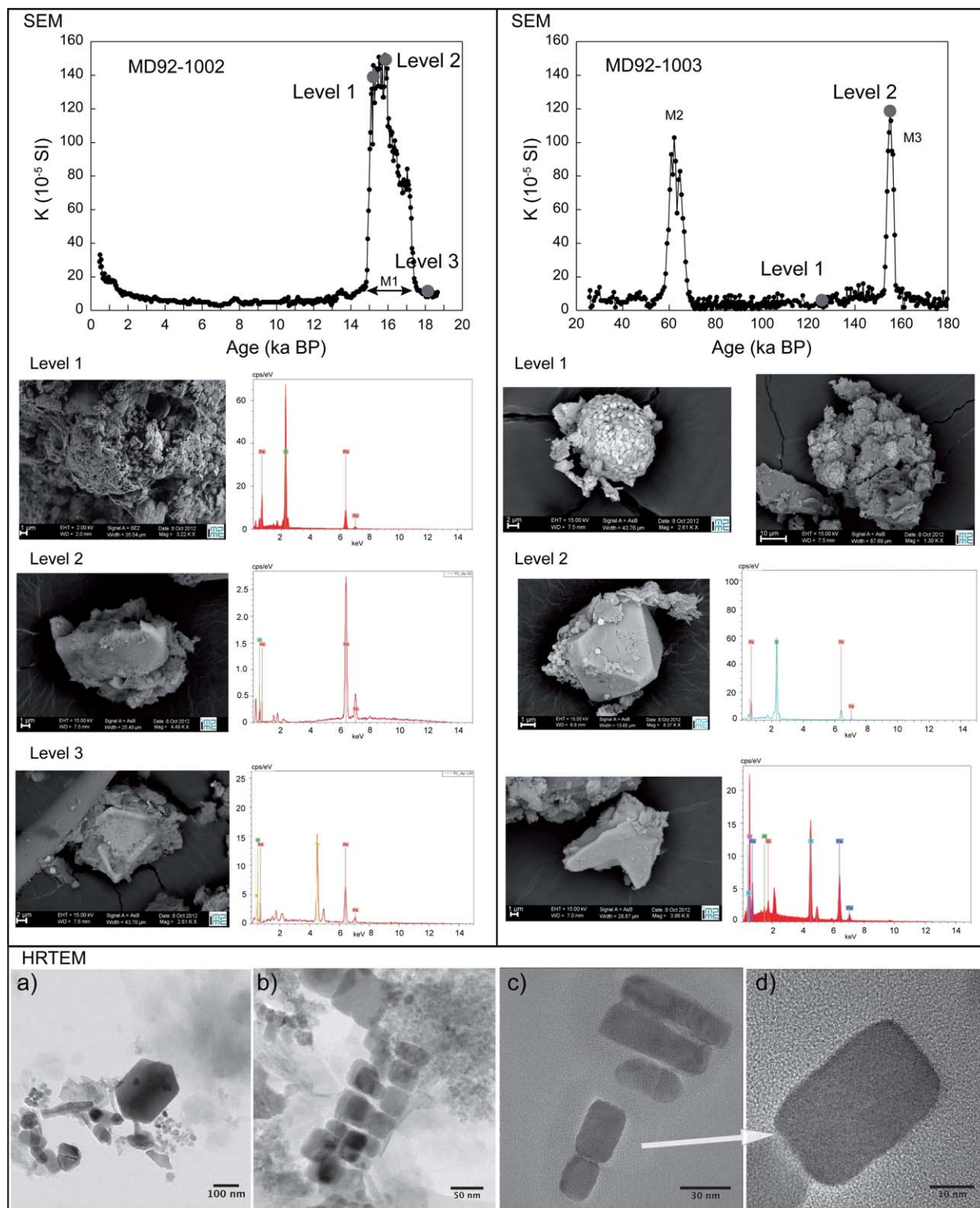


Figure 7. SEM observations of decarbonated sediment powders within and outside the M peaks from cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 and their associated EDS spectra. (left) Level 1 from core MD92–1002 contains framboid of pyrite microcrystals, levels 2 and 3 contain iron and iron-titanium oxides. (right) Levels 1 and 2 from core MD92–1003 also contain pyrite and oxides. High-resolution transmission electron microscopy observations of a magnetic extract from core MD92–1003, (a–c) magnetite grains organized in chains, and (d) detailed picture of presumed bacterial magnetite.

[28] We investigated further the existence of iron sulfides. X-ray diffraction analyses (using a Bruker AXS D2 Phaser with a LynxEye position sensitive detector at the MNHN) on decarbonated, dry powders of four samples from core MD92–1002 and two from core MD92–1003 did not reveal any significant peak characteristic of iron sulfides, and specifically, none of the six peaks inherent to greigite.

[29] Further information about the high-coercivity mineral that is responsible for the low *S*- and *R*-ratio was obtained from low-temperature rock magnetic experiments. Zero-field cooled (ZFC, cooling from 300 to 20 K in zero field) and field-cooled (FC, cooling in field from 300 to 20 K) measurements were conducted on six samples of dry bulk sediment from core MD92–1002 using a Quantum Design XL5 EverCool Magnetic Properties Measurement System at IPGP. The cycling experiments were performed at 5 K temperature increments. Room-temperature SIRM (RT-SIRM) of dry bulk sediments was also measured after applying a 1 T field. Magnetization versus temperature curves for three samples A1, A2, and A3 located above, within, and below the M1 peak, respectively (Figures 6a–6c), reveal a dramatic loss of magnetization between 20 and 300 K for samples A1 and A3, whereas there is a noticeable increase for the A2 sample. The low temperature experiments for A1 and A3 (Figures 6b and 6f) are characterized by converging ZFC and FC heating curves, which are consistent with the presence of goethite [Liu *et al.*, 2006; Franke *et al.*, 2007; Just *et al.*, 2012]. There is also a clear Verwey transition in the heating curve for sample A2 and its derivative (Figure 6d), which is indicative of stoichiometric magnetite. Little evidence for similar transitions is present in the other two samples. Finally, the absence of a Morin transition at 250 K confirms the absence of hematite. However, we are aware that we cannot be more conclusive about this without saturation experiments in higher fields.

[30] Scanning electron microscope observations coupled with EDS analyses provided another way to characterize magnetic minerals. Twelve decarbonated samples from core MD92–1002 and two samples from core MD92–1003 were dispersed on a double-sided carbon tape on sample holders for SEM observations. SEM observations were performed using a Zeiss Ultra 55 SEM coupled with an EDXS QUANTAX microanalyser (BRUKER) at the Institut de Minéralogie et de Physique des Milieux Condensés (IMPMC), Paris. Iron oxides or iron-titanium oxides (10–20 μm) and pyrite

microcrystals are observed within the M peaks. The presence of spherical framboids containing uniform pyrite microcrystals outside the M peaks (Figure 7) is consistent with SIRM heating experiments performed within these intervals, which suggest the transformation of pyrite upon heating [Passier *et al.*, 2001]. Octahedral and cubic forms of isolated pyrite microcrystals were found within the M peaks (Figure 7).

8. Relative and Total Amounts of Magnetic Iron Oxides

[31] The magnetic properties of cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 result from changes in the relative abundance of low coercivity (magnetite) and high coercivity (goethite). Goethite is characterized by a low saturation magnetization with respect to magnetite. Thus, the relative concentration of the magnetic particles cannot be directly inferred from bulk, rock magnetic parameters. Changes in the magnetic particles concentration can be estimated by assuming that all magnetic grains have the same magnetic mineralogy. This approach rests upon the conversion of the magnetization carried by the goethite grains into the equivalent magnetization which would be carried by the same amount of magnetite grains. This was achieved by taking into account the relative amount of high- versus low-coercivity material derived from the *S* ratio and the fact that the magnetization of magnetite is at least 200 times stronger than that of goethite [O'Reilly, 1984]. In order to increase our confidence in these estimates (especially over intervals where magnetic susceptibilities are particularly low resulting in a high signal-to-noise ratio), we averaged the values of three successive data points and used their standard deviation to estimate the range of uncertainty. The relative amount of magnetic oxides (RAMO) derived from these calculations shows a considerably smoother profile than the evolution of NRM, *k*, ARM, and IRM in cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003. The RAMO (Figure 8a) does not change by more than a factor of 2 in core MD92–1002, which is considerably lower than the amplitude of ~ 20 observed in the variations of rock magnetic parameters. The same conclusion can be drawn for core MD92–1003 (Figure 8b).

[32] Relatively invariant RAMO profiles for the two cores could fortuitously reflect a nearly constant flux of magnetite and goethite through time, even though these two minerals have a different

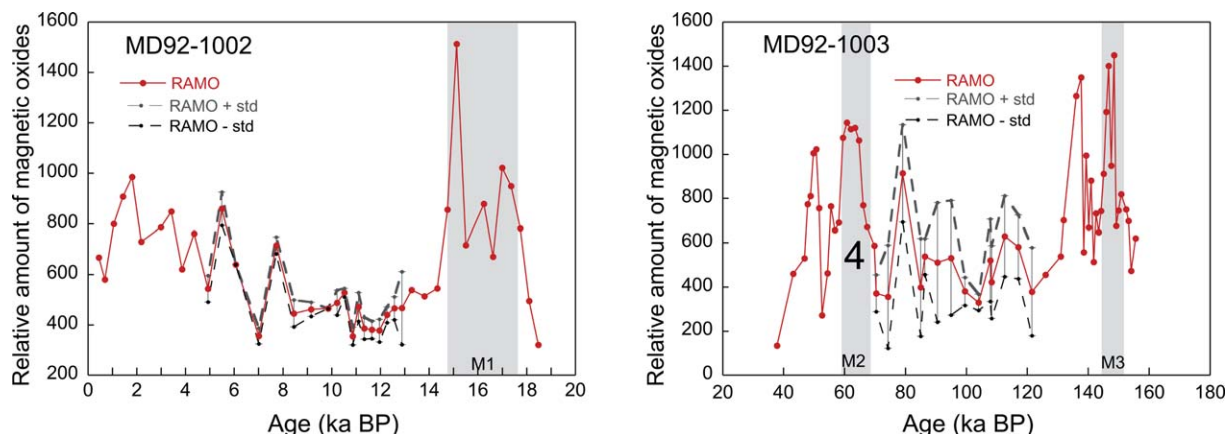


Figure 8. Down-core evolution of the relative amount of magnetic particles (RAMO) in both cores (a) MD92–1002 and (b) MD92–1003 after correcting for the differences in saturation magnetization. Note that the peaks have disappeared.

origin and sedimentation history. In such a scenario, the high-coercivity material (which is dominated by goethite) would have a detrital origin, and its relative abundance would be controlled by source areas and alteration processes (the relative abundance of goethite with respect to hematite reflects more humid conditions). This “fortuitous scenario” appears unlikely. Alternatively, the RAMO profile suggests that the sediment was deposited with a relatively constant concentration of magnetite and that the large changes in magnetic properties (k , NRM, ARM, and IRM) result from postdepositional mineralogical transformations. Redox conditions on the seafloor or during early burial diagenesis would have controlled such mineralogical transformation in this scenario. Reactive iron oxides are dissolved by reduction in anaerobic sediments, which releases Fe^{2+} near the oxic-anoxic boundary. The Fe^{2+} can be oxidized to Fe^{3+} at this boundary where authigenic Fe^{3+} -bearing minerals can precipitate. Ferrihydrite has long been considered as a main diagenetic product, but experimental and observational studies indicate that the main reactive precipitate is goethite [van der Zee et al., 2003]. As will be discussed in more detail below, we suggest that the release of Fe^{2+} and associated precipitation of goethite could be linked to magnetite dissolution.

9. Organic Carbon

[33] In order to test whether changes in redox conditions and/or bottom water oxygenation were responsible for changes in magnetite preservation, we measured the total organic carbon (TOC)

content remaining in the sediments using an elemental combustion analyzer. Several analyses had been already conducted on 67 decarbonated samples from core MD92–1002 using a LECO C-S 125 analyzer [Ouadhi, 1997]. We analyzed 27 additional nondecarbonated samples from core MD92–1003 with a LECO IR 212 at the Institut des Sciences de la Terre de Paris (Université Pierre et Marie Curie). The CaCO_3 content (C_{min} for “carbon mineral”) was obtained by gas volumetric analysis using a carbonate bomb, and the TOC was estimated by subtracting C_{min} from the total carbon (TC) content under the assumption that C_{min} is represented by calcite. TC was determined with a precision of about 0.02%.

[34] Both cores are characterized by relatively large TOC values that range between 0.5 and ~3.5%. In core MD92–1002, TOC progressively increases from ~20 Cal ka BP to the present (Figure 9c). An interval characterized by low TOC values (~0.5%) occurs at ~14.5–18 Cal ka BP, while the Younger Dryas has TOC values as low as ~1%. TOC values for core MD92–1003 (Figure 9d) are lower during MIS 4 and 6. The most striking feature is that in both cores the lowest TOC values are coeval with the M peaks (Figures 9c and 9d). This correlation suggests a dependence between the amount of organic matter and the preservation of magnetite, as frequently observed in magnetic studies of sediments [Froelich et al., 1979; Karlin and Levi, 1983; Karlin, 1990a, 1990b; Leslie et al., 1990; Roberts and Turner, 1993; Richter et al., 1999; Robinson et al., 2000; Liu et al., 2004; Kawamura et al., 2007; Rowan et al., 2009; Abrajevitch et al., 2009; Abrajevitch and Kodama, 2011].

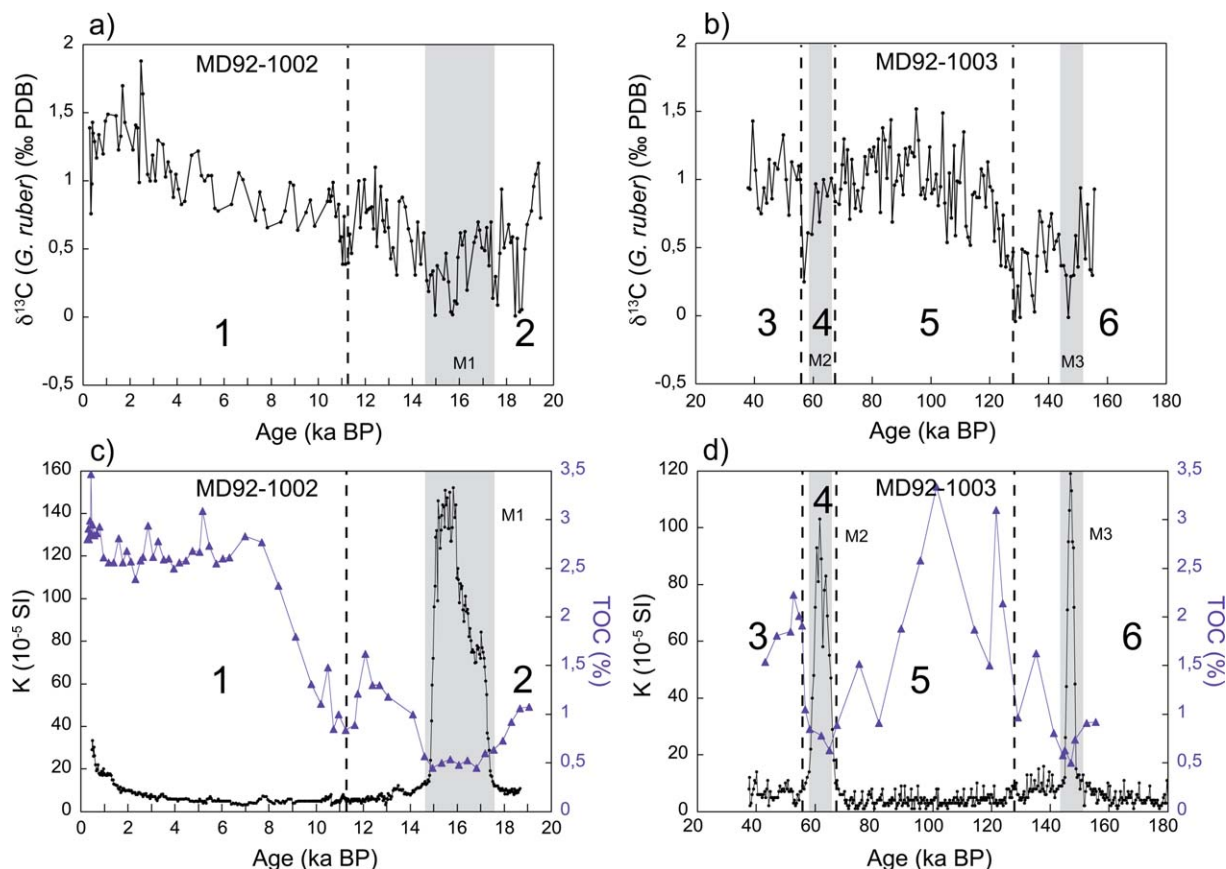


Figure 9. (a and b) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ profile derived from *G. ruber* planktonic foraminifera in both cores and (c and d) changes in total organic content (TOC) plotted with susceptibility. The M1–M3 levels have the lowest TOC values.

10. Discussion

[35] As seen above, we can exclude hypotheses associated with supply of detrital magnetic minerals for the origin of the high-amplitude susceptibility peaks (M1–M3) found in cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003. First, the undisturbed oxygen isotopic stratigraphy around the peaks and the detailed ^{14}C -based age model for core MD92–1002 suggest continuous sedimentation. This is confirmed by the absence of sedimentological evidence for turbiditic events or sediment reworking. Density and carbonate content data indicate that neither changes in sediment properties nor carbonate dilution are responsible for the large amplitude changes in magnetic parameters. Major and trace element analyses confirm the existence of a thin volcanic layer in the lower part of M1, which had been previously revealed by smear slide observations of a few disseminated glass shards. However, this volcanic event, which is clearly evident as a small Th peak, does not account for the entire

extent (150 cm wide) of M1. In addition, no similar volcanic signature has been found for peaks M2 and M3 in core MD92–1003. *S*, *R*, and *T* ratios indicate that magnetic mineralogy is the prominent factor that controls the M peaks. Sediments from core MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 contain magnetite and goethite and magnetite magnetically dominates the M peaks. With the exception of the small interval containing volcanic glass, geochemical parameters remain largely invariant provided they have been corrected for carbonate dilution. Moreover, under the assumption that magnetite was the only magnetic iron oxide supplied during deposition, we find that the concentration of magnetite has remained almost constant over time. Thus, the nature of sedimentation and the flux of magnetic iron oxides would have remained relatively constant over time.

[36] Our results suggest that significant changes in magnetic mineralogy resulted from early steady state diagenetic transformations, which led to iron oxide dissolution and to subsequent precipitation

of goethite. The effects of sulfate reducing conditions on preservation of magnetite have been frequently reported [Karlin and Levi, 1983; Canfield and Berner, 1987; Karlin, 1990a, 1990b; Snowball, 1993; Sahota et al., 1995; Passier et al., 2001]. The low likelihood of preservation of detrital magnetite in sulfate reducing environments led us to consider the origin of the single-domain magnetite that dominates the magnetization within the M peaks.

10.1. Contribution of Magnetosomes

[37] Despite widespread volcanism in the surrounding area, we cannot neglect the possibility that some of the magnetite from the M peaks could have a bacterial origin. High-resolution transmission electron microscope (HRTEM) observations of magnetic extracts were performed with a JEOL 2100 TEM at the IMPMC. We selected a magnetite-rich sample taken from the M2 peak in core MD92–1003. Magnetic extraction was conducted on the fine (<63 μm) decarbonated fraction following the procedure adapted from Hounslow and Maher [1996]. HRTEM observations of magnetic extracts have revealed the presence of parallelepipeds or bullet-shaped magnetite grains (Figure 7). We also observed a few chains of cubic magnetite crystals (Figures 7b and 7c) that have the same size as magnetosomes in living magnetotactic bacteria [Kopp and Kirschvink, 2008]. Despite this strong evidence for the presence of fossil magnetosomes, similar aggregates or alignments of magnetite grains could be artificially generated during magnetic extraction.

[38] Biogenic magnetite is often produced within a relatively narrow redox gradient [Bazylinski and Frankel, 2004]. Magnetofossils need sufficient dissolved iron for biomineralization and are almost ubiquitous in aquatic environments. Their preservation depends on the interplay between organic carbon flux (paleoproductivity), iron bioavailability, and redox environment, as shown by Roberts et al. [2011a] who argued that release of iron provided by eolian dust gave rise to paleoproductivity cycles with strong and weak magnetic properties linked to the abundance of magnetofossils. In the present situation, there does not appear to be any direct correlation between the M peaks and climatic cycles. There is also no evidence for significant changes in the iron content in association with the M peaks.

[39] Alternatively, if deposition rates are rapid the time spent in the active reduction zone is short and

favors partial magnetosome preservation. This situation has been reported for sediments from the outer edge of the northeastern Australian continental margin [Abrajevitch and Kodama, 2011]. Two prominent *k* and SIRM peaks correspond to the onset of marine transgressions with high deposition rates and were interpreted as resulting from a short time period spent within the reduction zone rather than from increased bacterial production. A similar relationship between deposition rates and magnetite preservation was proposed by Snowball [1993] who noticed that higher organic carbon contents combined with low deposition rate produces intense reducing conditions with almost complete loss of magnetite in subarctic lake sediments in northern Sweden. Results from cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 are not consistent with these observations because the magnetite peaks do not coincide with faster deposition rates.

[40] Low organic carbon contents with low productivity of magnetotactic bacteria within the M peaks would also not produce sufficiently strong magnetizations. It seems, therefore, that the relative abundance of pristine single-domain magnetite must be explained by a significant change in redox conditions during deposition of the M peaks. These results are reminiscent of those of Tarduno [1992] who reported cycles with low and high magnetic mineral concentration in Cretaceous pelagic carbonates from Italy and showed that better preservation of magnetite was coeval with low organic carbon contents. Similar alternances have also been pointed out for the Mediterranean sea sapropels [Larrasoana et al., 2003].

[41] Changes in diagenetic conditions, due to non-steady state variation, may be responsible for the different mineralogical contents within and outside the M peaks. This hypothesis is evidently consistent with the TOC contents outside the M peaks with values exceeding 4% in core MD92–1002 and 2.5% in core MD92–1003. These values are high for hemipelagic sediments. Therefore, we suggest that organic carbon supply was strong enough and/or ventilation of bottom water was weak enough to allow extensive diagenetic sulfate reduction and magnetite dissolution except for within the M peaks.

10.2. Reductive Dissolution of Magnetite

[42] The presence of well-preserved single-domain magnetite grains within the M peaks (with a strong biogenic component), low TOC values, and the absence of iron sulfides indicate that diagenesis did

not extend beyond the iron reduction stage in these intervals. In contrast, high TOC values, the reduced amount of magnetite, and the presence of framboidal pyrite indicate that diagenetic dissolution of iron oxides has affected the sediment magnetization outside the M peaks. The occurrence of framboidal pyrite is associated with production of dissolved sulfide by sulfate-reducing bacteria [Canfield and Berner, 1987; Wilkin and Barnes, 1997]. Greigite does not form under highly reducing conditions [Schoonen and Barnes, 1991], but it is still an intermediate product during pyrite in framboid formation [Sweeney and Kaplan, 1973; Morse et al., 1987]. We cannot exclude that greigite rapidly converted into pyrite during early diagenesis [Cutter and Velinsky, 1988], particularly if sulfide production exceeded iron production [Kao et al., 2004]. The fact that the M peaks only contain a few isolated pyrite grains is consistent with this suggestion.

[43] Rock magnetic results from Bengal fan sediments [Abrajevitch et al., 2009] indicate significant changes in relative abundances of goethite, hematite, and magnetite, which can be compared to the present results. In the lower part of the studied Bengal fan sequence, biogenic magnetite and the high-coercivity component carried by goethite and hematite were affected by dissolution. The relative abundance of goethite versus hematite was interpreted as reflecting climate variations in the sediment source area. Other stratigraphic levels are characterized by different degrees of diagenetic dissolution with preferential removal of fine-grained (biogenic) fraction of magnetite, relatively high values of TOC, and pyrite occurrences. This alternating pattern of magnetic mineral preservation and destruction resembles that in the present cores except for the balance between magnetite and high-coercivity minerals. In the Bengal fan sediments, goethite and hematite are present within the intervals that were not affected by iron reduction, whereas these minerals are absent within the M peaks in the northern Indian Ocean. Conversely, the goethite content is low when biogenic magnetite is not present in the Bengal sediments, while it is higher where diagenetic reduction took place in our studied Indian Ocean sediments. The absence of goethite within the M peaks could be the consequence of diagenetic reduction, but in this case the finer grains of magnetite would have been primarily affected.

[44] Goethite reflects different climate or weathering conditions in the source region or in situ diagenetic alteration [Channell et al., 1982; Lowrie and

Heller, 1982; Karlin et al., 1987]. We pointed out that only the second possibility is consistent with a relatively constant supply of magnetite. Several authors [Bloemendal et al., 1992] have observed that during reductive (suboxic) diagenesis [Froelich et al., 1979] there is evidence for the presence of a hard remanence component. Goethite contribution in sediments has previously been underestimated [France and Oldfield, 2000], but it is now frequently observed in detailed rock magnetic studies [Abrajevitch and Kodama, 2011; Just et al., 2012]. It is difficult to determine whether goethite was present during or after diagenesis. In the present situation, the absence or quasi-absence of goethite within the M peaks strongly suggests that it was inherited from diagenetic depletion of ferromagnetic constituents. We propose that the Fe^{2+} released by reductive dissolution of magnetite favored precipitation of this new authigenic phase.

10.3. Paleoenvironmental Implications

[45] Early diagenetic dissolution of ferrimagnetic minerals is a potential indicator of paleoenvironmental changes. The high TOC values found in both cores can result from (1) high export productivity from surface to deep waters in the western Arabian Sea where strong monsoon-related upwelling develops during the summer and/or (2) low bottom water oxygenation at intermediate water depths. The two studied sites are now located within a well-developed oxygen minimum zone (OMZ), with bottom water oxygen contents as low as 1 mL/L for the deepest site MD92–1002 (1327 m) and 0.5 mL/L for the shallowest site MD92–1003 (485 m) located within the heart of the OMZ (Figure 10). The OMZ is observed across the Arabian Sea and results from oxygen consumption associated with mineralization of exported organic matter at depth, and from moderate rates of thermocline ventilation in the Indian Ocean central water (IOCW) [van Weering et al., 1997]. We suggest that the observed episodes with low TOC in cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 and the associated peaks in magnetite preservation result from changes in the extent of oxygen depletion within the OMZ, which generated changes in redox conditions at the seafloor in response to surface productivity changes and/or ventilation of intermediate waters.

[46] Such changes have been documented by several studies, where millennial scale oscillations have been associated with complex atmospheric or oceanic tele-connection mechanisms that transfer high latitude variability to Arabian Sea primary

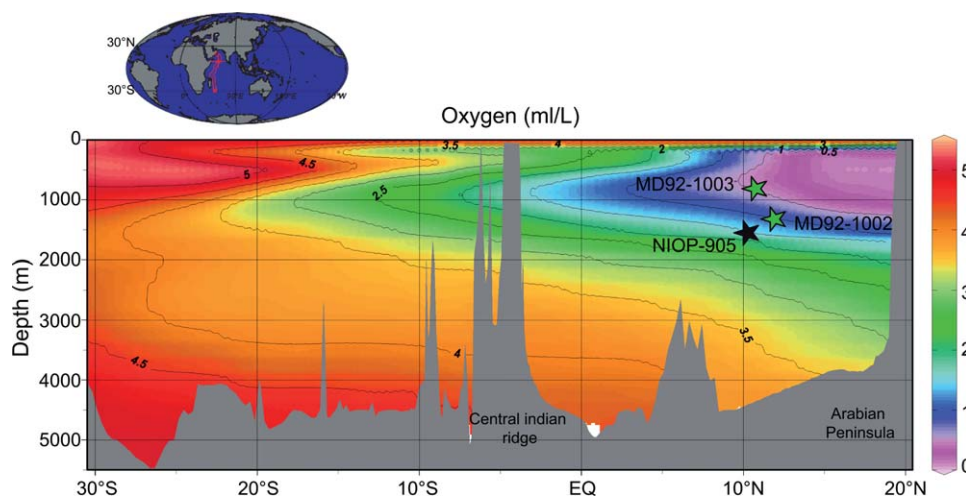


Figure 10. Profile I7 from the Ocean Data view [Schlitzer, 2012] showing oxygen content (mL/L) of Indian Ocean water masses and the paleodepths of cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003 and NIOP-905.

productivity [Reichert *et al.*, 1998; Schulz *et al.*, 1998; von Rad *et al.*, 1999; Leuschner and Sirocko, 2000; Altabet *et al.*, 2002; Jung *et al.*, 2002] or ventilation of intermediate water through episodic northward extension of the Glacial Antarctic Intermediate Water (GAAIW) into the Arabian Sea [Jung *et al.*, 2009]. In core MD92–1002, the *G. ruber* $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ curve (*G. ruber*, shallow signal) is superimposed on the long-term glacial-interglacial pattern. The M1 event (~ 15 – 17 Cal ka BP) corresponds to a $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ minimum (circa 0.25‰)

(Figure 11b), which can be interpreted as reflecting a low productivity episode. In core MD92–1003, the lowest TOC values are coeval with low $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values. We can infer that these data support the hypothesis that past productivity decreases may have played a key role in generating the M peaks in cores MD92–1002 and MD92–1003. However, other evidence points to the potential role played by ventilation changes at intermediate depths. The epibenthic (*Cibicides kullenbergi*) $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record from nearby core NIOP-905, located at a water

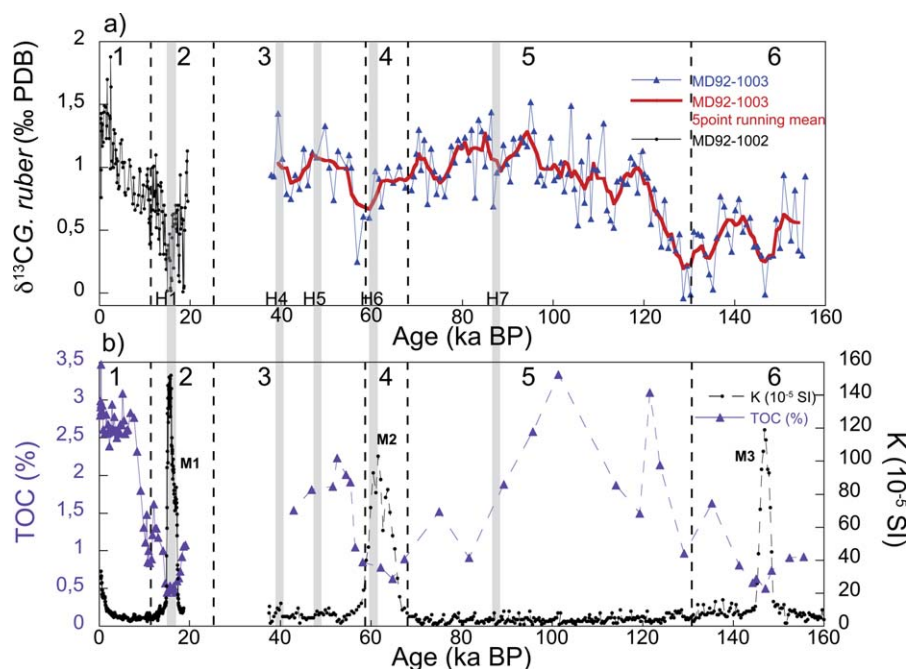


Figure 11. (a) Composite $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record for *G. ruber* (shallow water mass) and (b) TOC versus magnetic susceptibility for both cores.

depth of 1580 m (about 300 m deeper than core MD92–1002), reveals several high-amplitude, positive peaks that are not all coeval with sea surface productivity changes and which have been interpreted as reflecting episodic northward GAAIW extensions, in response to reduced thermohaline overturning in the North Atlantic during Heinrich ice surge events [Jung *et al.*, 2009].

[47] Within the limits of our well-constrained ^{14}C age model, the M1 peak of core MD92–1002 appears to be synchronous with the youngest high $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ peak in core NIOP-905, which is interpreted as a ventilation event associated with a tele-connected response to Heinrich event 1 [Jung *et al.*, 2009]. Similarly, the M2 peak in core MD92–1003 can be associated with the Heinrich event 6 (Figure 11). A recent study by Roberts *et al.* [2011b] from the nearby Red Sea provides evidence for similar tele-connections and responses to Heinrich events. However, the orbitally tuned age model of core MD92–1003 is not precise enough to unambiguously support this assumption. It is puzzling that the benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ record of NIOP-905 has many more peaks than the magnetic susceptibility record for core MD92–1003 which does not reveal any peak corresponding to the H3, H4, and H5 events. Because core MD92–1003 (at ~ 485 m water depth) is located in the heart of the modern OMZ, while the deeper NIOP-905 site (1580 m) is located at its lowermost limit, we speculate that core NIOP-905 could be more sensitive to changes in intermediate ventilation associated with northward extension of the GAAIW. Additional studies of benthic $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and surface productivity proxies are required to assess the respective role of productivity and ventilation on TOC changes and sedimentary redox variations in the Northern Indian Ocean.

11. Conclusions

[48] We investigated down-core changes in magnetic mineral concentration, mineralogy, and grain size in two sediment cores from the Gulf of Aden and a parallel multiproxy sedimentological (carbonate content, bulk density, TOC) and geochemical (major and trace elements, high resolution of $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^{13}\text{C}$) study. TOC contents combined with the presence of framboidal pyrite and major changes in magnetic mineralogy indicate that part of an initial magnetite contribution likely associated with magnetotactic bacteria was diagenetically reduced. The presence of goethite at the

same levels resulted from diagenetic release of Fe^{2+} which precipitated as authigenic iron oxyhydroxides. This study was initially aimed at investigating the origin of high-amplitude susceptibility peaks in both cores, which are shown to have been induced by a switch from a magnetite-goethite assemblage to a purely magnetite-dominated regime. Such changes occurred either during low productivity episodes and/or episodes of OMZ breakdown, which resulted from northward extension of the well-oxygenated GAAIW.

[49] Our results suggest several conclusions. First, they emphasize the importance of paying attention to magnetic mineralogy in marine sediments, even in the presence of small changes between contributions from high- and low-coercivity magnetic minerals. Variations between low- and high-coercivity minerals rapidly generate large changes in magnetization properties, but they do not necessarily affect the fidelity of the paleomagnetic record. We reiterate the warning of Abrajevitch *et al.* [2009] regarding the use of magnetic parameters as paleoenvironmental indicators in the presence of diagenetic alteration. This diagenetic imprint may affect the interpretation of magnetic analyses (e.g., grain size and magnetic anisotropy) and other parameters that are frequently used in environmental magnetism. Second, our work demonstrates the value of magnetic, mineralogical, and geochemical parameters in investigating paleoenvironmental conditions during sediment deposition. Finally, we emphasize the potential role played by magnetotactic bacteria, which has been pointed out in an increasing number of recent studies [e.g., Roberts *et al.*, 2012].

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